(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for which these coal mines are being left unworkable creating a huge national loss to the country as well as to the concerned State, because, the States are being denies royalty thereon;

(d) whether Government will consider to allot such unworkable mines to private parties; if necessary, by bringing another Amendment of the Act on this issue; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) As per the latest information available, 30 coal mines of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) are not producing coal at present. Apart from exhaustion of reserves, the mines have been closed due to fire, flooding, adverse geo-mining conditions, economic unviability and safety considerations.

(c) Efforts are made to re-open the mines wherever feasible. Wherever this is not possible the manpower is redeployed elsewhere to increase production in the other mines, thus minimising the loss on account of closed mines.

(d) No, sir.

(e) Where the mines are unworkable, it will not be desirable to offer them to private parties because it may compromise safety and environmental considerations. In addition, the working of private mines in the vicinity of public sector mines can also cause operation problems.

Awareness regarding Consumer Movement

2165. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the cooperation of consumer associations, the consumer movement in the country is piking up;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the vested interests campaigning against the utility of consumerism and consumer courts; and

(c) the number of such cases detected during the last two years and nature of action taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPTT. OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Representations from various sections of the society expressing their views for and against the consumerism and consumer courts are received in this Ministry. These views are ekamined objectively and Government takes appropriate decision in the matter. There is no mechanism to check the authenticity of these representations.

उत्तर प्रदेश में बन्द औद्योगिक एकक

2166. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव:**
श्री चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह:

क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) उत्तर प्रदेश में बन्द हो चुके अथवा बन्द होने के कगार पर पहुंच चुके औद्योगिक एककों का स्थान-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) ये एकक कब से बन्द हैं अथवा बन्द होने की स्थिति में हैं तथा इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) इन औद्योगिक एककों को पुनः चालू करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं,

(घ) इन एककों के बन्द होने के कारण कितने कर्मचारी व श्रमिक बेरोजगार हो चुके हैं, और

(ङ) इन एककों में कार्यरत श्रमिकों को राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा दी गई वित्तीय सहायता का ब्यौरा क्या है?

श्रम मंत्री (श्री जी० वेंकट स्वामी): (क) से (ङ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जायेगी।

Misappropriation of Funds in MMTC

2167. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether misappropriation of funds by MMTC has been reported to Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such reports also indicate acceptance of payments through hawala route in the dealings with defaulters under the associate scheme for exports of gold jewellery;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to get the matter investigated to punish the corrupt officials; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir. No misappropriation of funds by MMTC has been reported to Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

विदेशों में कार्यरत भारतीय कर्मकारों से प्राप्त शिकायतें

2168. **श्री नागमणि:**

श्री ईश दत्त यादव:

क्या **श्रम** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) विगत तीन वर्षों के दौरान विदेशों में कार्य करने वाले भारतीय कामगारों से वर्ष-वार कितनी शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं;

(ख) इनमें से कितनी शिकायतों का निवारण कर दिया गया है और सरकार ने अब तक संबंधित अभिकरणों/ठेकेदारों के विरुद्ध क्या कार्रवाई की है; और

(ग) ऐसे कितने मामले हैं जिनके बारे में अन्तिम कार्रवाई नहीं की गई है?

श्रम मंत्री (श्री जी० वेंकट स्वामी): (क) से (ग) वर्ष 1992, 1993 और 1994 के दौरान, विदेशों में भारतीय कर्मकारों से प्राप्त शिकायतों की संख्या क्रमशः 28, 52 और 15 थी। उपर्युक्त 95 शिकायतों में से, 87 शिकायतों का निपटान कर दिया गया है और 8 मामले अंतिम रूप दिए जाने के लिए लम्बित हैं। उपर्युक्त शिकायतों के आधार पर, 6 भर्ती एजेन्टों के पंजीकरण प्रमाण पत्र निलम्बित किए गए थे तथा निलम्बन अवधि के दौरान उन्हें भर्ती संबंधी कार्य करने की अनुमति नहीं दी गयी।

Expansion of Trade Ties with France

2169. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to expand trade ties with France;

(b) whether a bilateral investment promotion and protection agreement is proposed to be signed with France for the purpose;

(c) if so, the steps taken thereon; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) It is Government's endeavour to expand bilateral trade with all trading partners, including France.

(b) to (d) An Agreement on Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection has been reached with the French side after two rounds of detailed negotiations. It is proposed to be signed in due course on an appropriate occasion.